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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 15, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AND DEPUTY JOHN MECKLENBURG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reference to National Police Week, which is going on right now.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. This year's National Police Week is Sunday, May 13, through Saturday, May 19.

As George W. Bush once described it:

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and

Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

On Sunday, May 13, I attended the candlelight vigil for our fallen officers from 2011. There were 163 peace officers who sacrificed their lives for us in the line of duty. Earlier today, I had the honor of attending the 31st National Police Officers Memorial Service right here on the front lawn of the Capitol. We honored over 19,000 law enforcement officers who have given their lives—the ultimate sacrifice—in the line of duty.

In 2011, 163 police officers gave their lives for this country. So far this year, we've lost over 40 officers in the line of duty. On July 3, 2011—and this is especially close to me—one of those who lost their lives was Hernando County Sheriff's Deputy John Mecklenburg, a deputy that I actually swore in to serve the citizens of Hernando County.

John died while in pursuit of a suspect and gave his life, and John left behind a wife, Penny, and two children. When he left that evening to go to work for the midnight shift, he had all expectations of coming home. But John gave the ultimate sacrifice for his county, for his State, and, ultimately, for his Nation.

I served as a police officer for 36 years before I came up here. I know what it is to go through the grief of losing one of our own. I want to thank the Fraternal Order of Police for highlighting this and working with the COPS organization to actually pay respect to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

We've been blessed in America, and we're protected by people who do it because it's the right thing to do, not because they're going to make a lot of money. They do it because they truly believe in the citizens that they serve. They do it with honor and dignity. And

today, the President of the United States spoke to all of the survivors and police officers and their families that were in attendance on the front lawn of the Capitol, rightfully, as he should. We appreciate the President coming forward because it means so much to the survivors of a law enforcement officer who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Once again, we've been blessed, Mr. Speaker, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our law enforcement officers who protect us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we also keep our thoughts and prayers, not only for the law enforcement officers that are out there today at this very minute across the United States putting their lives on the line, but also remember those who are serving in harm's way in our military who also have given the fullest measure that they can, and that's their life, in defense of this country.

Mr. Speaker, God bless us and God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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